RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

JULY, 1883.

A RAGGED PARLIAMENT IN SESSION.

It is a matter of common experience that inferences drawn from insufficient data result in conclusions most mischievous alike to individuals and institutions.

The amount of pecuniary support accorded to an institution is a rough measure of its importance in the popular mind, hence the alarm that arises from a decline of funds. We say a rough measure, but frequently a most fallacious one, for this decline may arise from some other claims made with noise and persistency, or may be the result of some erroneous opinion which for a time gains ascendency.

From the spread of elementary education by means of School Boards, the inference has been drawn that Ragged Schools were no longer necessary. This would imply that their object was merely to impart a knowledge of the three R's.

A careful perusal of the Society's Report, which brings into prominence the variety and extent of spiritual and social work accomplished through its affiliated institutions, would be sufficient to dispel this delusion; but as a rule reports are not read. The Rev. Thomas Binney recognised this fact when, moving the adoption of a report, and that it be printed and circulated, he added, "and read," an end "devoutly to be wished." The adage, "You may lead a horse to water," is well known.

Therefore, to correct erroneous impressions, it is necessary to operate in other ways than by the printed page, hence the Committee of the Ragged School Union wisely resolved to convene a Conference of persons of high standing and of great practical experience.

To this end a circular letter, written by Earl Shaftesbury, the President of the Society, was widely circulated, and met with a most hearty response from persons eminent for their piety and philanthropy in London and the provinces. A list of the names is given in the proceedings of the Conference which has been printed and gratuitously circulated to subscribers and teachers of Ragged Schools both in town and country.

At the Conference, which took place in Exeter Hall, on the 11th April, presided over by the noble Earl, papers were read by Mr. H. R. Williams, on "Ragged Schools, Past and Present;" by the Rev. Canon Fleming, on "Religious Instruction;" and by Professor Leone Levi, on "Charity and Thrift."

The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. McEwan, and at the close the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. J. De Kewer Williams.

Letters of sympathy and approval from the Bishop of Rochester, Rev. H. W. Webb Peploe, Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, Rev. J. H. Moran, Rev. Archibald Brown, Sir Robert W. Carden, M.P., the Secretaries of the Ragged Schools in Birmingham, Bristol, Coventry, Cardigan, Guildford, Oxford, and Loughborough contributed their quota to the day's proceedings, confirmatory of the need and importance of Ragged School work.

The first resolution, which was moved by His Grace the Duke of Westminster, seconded by the Earl of Aberdeen, and supported by the following gentlemen: John MacGregor, Esq.; John M'Diarmid, Esq., Hon. Secretary of the Liverpool Ragged School Union; Mr. John Menzies, of Stephen the Yeoman School; and S. R. Starey, Esq., one of the founders of the Ragged School Union, was as follows:—

> "That while recognising with gratitude the great extension of elementary education throughout the country, this Conference expresses its earnest conviction of the need of maintaining the Ragged Schools and their affiliated Missions, as centres of Christian benevolence, and heartily commends the efforts of the Ragged School Union in that behalf to the support of the community."

The second resolution, moved by Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., seconded by Rev. C. H. Kelly (Wesleyan Sunday School Union), supported by Mr. Benjamin Clarke (Sunday School Union),

Miss Frances Hastings (Whitecross Mission), and Mr. George Holland (George Yard Mission), ran thus:—

> "That, under the present condition of Public Elementary Education, it is all the more necessary to encourage and support the establishment of Sunday Schools and other modes of imparting religious teaching among the classes living in the most destitute and crowded localities."

The third resolution, moved by Earl Cairns, seconded by Mr. B. F. Babcock, Treasurer of the Liverpool Ragged School Union, supported by Rev. E. Paxton Hood, and Mr. J. Edmunds, Hon. Secretary of the Gray's Yard School, was in these words:—

> "That it is all important to promote as much as possible better dwellings for the poor; to encourage the establishment of Penny Banks and other means for promoting Thrift and Temperance, as well as Youths' Institutes, for the instruction and recreation of young people, and by well-regulated emigration and otherwise to advance the economic welfare of the poor."

Mr. W. Le Mare, Treasurer of the Manchester Ragged School Union, Mr. J. G. Gent, and Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., spoke to a cordial resolution of thanks to Lord Shaftesbury for presiding, and the Right Hon. W. H. Smith, M.P., came to the meeting late, having been detained at Committee in the House of Commons, and was unfortunately not in time to take the part in the meeting which he had engaged to do.

These resolutions were carried unanimously.

Such a consensus of authoritative opinion must at once remove from every well-regulated mind the mischievous impression which for some time has been sapping the foundation of a society which wears on its front, in softened radiance, the benignant expression of Him whose mission was to seek and to save those who are lost.

The Conference has already borne fruit; letters are repeatedly coming in testifying to its value in creating a spirit of revival.

The noble Earl, who for nearly forty years of the Society's existence has been its President, and who has so distinguished himself in the fields of religion and philanthropy, is much cheered by the spirit which his letter and the Conference have evoked. As the natural outcome of this enthusiasm there should be not only more money but more workers.

From a revival among the churches, and the diffusion of

religious life throughout society, a large increase to the staff of workers is confidently expected as an evidence of genuine enlightenment and spiritual deliverance. Additional support, both pecuniary and personal, is urgently needed to sustain and extend the beneficent operations of Ragged Schools. Above all, the presence of the Holy Spirit is implored to give potency to their labours, so that the word of the Lord may run and be glorified in the homes of the poor, whence may come from the gutter and the dust-bin a seed to serve Him and a generation to call Him blessed.

A SOCIAL GATHERING IN GROSVENOR SQUARE.

On the invitation of the Earl of Shaftesbury and Lady Edith Ashley a numerous company assembled in the evening of the day of the Conference at their hospitable drawing-rooms, 24, Grosvenor Square, when a reception was held. Amongst those present were the Earl of Aberdeen, Sir Harry Verney, M.P., Hon. A. F. Kinnaird, Professors Gladstone, LL.D., Leone Levi, LL.D., Rev. Paxton Hood, Mr. Burdett Coutts, Martin Ware, Esq., Mrs. Barker Harrison, Mrs. Gage Brown, and several members of the Committee, the chief guests of the evening being the country friends, for whose special pleasure this interesting gathering had been arranged. After some considerable time had been spent in the usual introductions and pleasant intercourse, and the partaking of the refreshments provided, the noble host called on—

Leonard K. Shaw, Esq., to give an account of the work in Manchester. He said: I presume it is the work for the poorest children in which we are all more or less interested. In Manchester Sunday Ragged Schools are still flourishing. In the centre of the city they are not so large as formerly, simply because the population has shifted and their houses have been pulled down. Out of the ordinary Ragged School work has arisen another work. I refer to the Refuge and Rescue work amongst the poorest and most destitute children. Some thirteen years ago two boys hung about the school after hours. They were asked to go away, but said they had no home to go to. We asked where they had slept the previous night. They had slept under an archway. We found on inquiry that many were leading such a life; sleeping in the common lodging-houses when they had a copper or two, and under the archways, or in doorways, when they had none. This led us to open a Night Refuge for Homeless Boys. We took a small house, which would accommodate thirty boys. The work has grown, and now we have twelve such Refuges—the Central Refuge and eleven branches in

different parts of the city, while those thirty boys have increased to 260 boys and girls. During these thirteen years we have had the Educational Act, the Industrial Act, and the Reformatories Act. How, then, are so many still permitted to wander about the streets? We found at one time 800 such vagrants over sixteen years of age and under nineteen, of whom 700 were boys and 100 girls. Notwithstanding legislation, and all the efforts put forth by various Christian agencies, this number were growing up in a sadly neglected state. There is only one remedy for this, and that is to get hold of the poorest children at an early age, and train them to habits of industry and thrift. Above all, we must give attention to the religious education of such children. We are apt to trace all the evils of neglected homes and destitute children too exclusively to drink. It is a fruitful source of poverty; yet it is possible to make people sober, and yet they may fail to realise the need for something higher and nobler still. Therein lies the great value of this Ragged School movement, which, notwithstanding the Government agencies put in motion by legislation, is still doing a grand work, and is still as necessary as ever. You cannot by the agency of State-paid teachers get hold of the living Christian devotedness which you will find in the noble army of voluntary Ragged School teachers engaged in your work. They can, and they do, follow the children home, speak to them on Sundays, reach their very hearts, and win them to the Saviour. This work never has been done, and never will be done, by any State-paid agency, however useful in its own sphere.

The Earl of Shaftesbury said: I will call upon Mr. Orsman to give us some account of his grand work amongst the costermongers. Two or three years ago I took Sir E. Y. Henderson, the head of the police, to see them, and he paid them a high compliment. At one time, he said, they were the roughest customers the police had to deal with; now, as the result of religious teaching, they were orderly and humane in their treatment of their animals.

Mr. W. J. Orsman said: As a London worker I must remark how delighted we are to meet with the friends from the provinces to-night, and to hear of their grand work. As to our work, we deal with the costermongers as a class. There are clubs of costermongers elsewhere, but somehow we have taken the lead in such work. We have not ceased, however, to be a Ragged School. We have to-day more than 600 children in our Sunday School, which is really a Ragged School. We have it morning and afternoon, and a service in the evening. There was a time when the vestry took steps to put an end to the Sunday trading, to a certain extent, among the costermongers in Golden Lane, then the headquarters of the costers. Of course, we felt that

Sunday trading was wrong, but could not help feeling with the costers that it was unfair they should be compelled to cease trading while the shops were left open. We went to the vestry and put the case before them. The result was that the stalls were permitted up to 10.30 a.m., at which hour the carbolic carts came down the narrow lane and cleared them out. The first Sunday morning the costers were determined the shopkeepers should close. Some said they would, others refused, and we greatly feared a riot. However, when St. Luke's bell struck the time the costers began to go to the shops, and although some defied them, the end was that all were shut up. The Earl of Shaftesbury then proposed to form a Costers' Club, and that has been very successful. We have also held Donkey Shows, where we give prizes, not for breed, but for humane treatment and care. This has had a great effect in producing the change in the treatment of these animals. This year we propose to allow them to bring ponies, for many have now Russian ponies, which they can get cheaper than donkeys. My workers, I may say, are a splendid body. I have nearly a hundred, and most of them were children in our Ragged School.

Mr. McDIARMID (Liverpool) said: When the Act of 1876 abolished certain schools which did not meet the Government requirements, the School Board invited some of us to co-operate with them. A joint-committee was formed, and the result has been that a great many boys and girls have been put into Industrial Schools. Our visitors went out one night in the week, and had the power of taking hold of any boy they found sleeping out. After inquiry, we often found they were runaways from home; but when they proved to be homeless we found places for them in some Industrial School. At one time we engaged a band of music, and sent it to play in school hours in different parts of the town, with the result of drawing out the children skulking about. We found 3,000 children on the streets in these particular districts during school hours. There is still plenty of work to do, and the Ragged School is as necessary as ever it was.

The Right Hon. the EARL of SHAFTESBURY, K.G., said: We ought to express our thanks to those who have come from the provinces, and have given us the benefit of their experiences. I hope this is a new starting-point for the Ragged School Union. We have had a good day. We had a strong platform, and we have had capital speeches. We have heard, not theories, but such as is the result of personal experience, and of what is going on. Now I would say this Ragged School movement is a movement to bring light and life to the most forsaken and destitute and degraded of the human race. The Divine blessing has rested in a marked degree upon it. I know of no work that has been so blessed.

I pray, therefore, that God will continue to bless this grand work, and give grace and strength to those who, for His name's sake, are carrying to the children of the pavement and gutter the knowledge of Himself and of His Son Jesus Christ.

Sir HARRY VERNEY said: We are exceedingly thankful to those who have attended this conference, and put before us their experiences, and we cannot separate without thanking Lord Shaftesbury for his reception, and for his kind words of cheer and testimony.

Mr. RICHARD JOHNSON said: We have reason to be thankful for what we have heard to-day. Many of us never met before, but we see how wonderfully alike this Christian love makes us one to another. We get on the common ground of common love to humanity, and we begin to feel how truly one we are. I want to say that if this Institution is to be prospered, and increased, and guided, and well governed, if greater good is to come out of it, it must be by bringing it to those who, in the higher walks of life, are stirred by your lordship's example.

The EARL of SHAFTESBURY, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said: I have only done my duty, and a very pleasant duty it has been, and the only merit I can claim is the merit of perseverance, and I have reaped the fruit of past labours in many ways. Let me tell you a little story to illustrate what I was saying about waifs and strays. Some few years ago I came back from the House of Lords, and was told that a lady had called to see me, driving up to the house in a carriage. My man said he never saw any one so anxious to see me. She could not call again, as she was leaving London. She was greatly disappointed at not seeing me. She had left her card—and a very nice card it was too—with Mrs. So-and-So on it. I went down next day to Mr. Gent, for I suspected what it might be. I showed him the card. "Don't you know her?" he said. "No, I don't." "Why, it's so-and-so, the girl you picked up in the gutter ten years ago." She was taken to a Ragged School, and was soon the most orderly scholar. She improved greatly, and, ere long, true vital religion got hold of her heart. In due time she went out into service, and the head of the family was one of the most sensible men I ever knew, for after he had watched this girl some years, he said to his son, "You will never get a better wife than this little girl." In due time he married her, and after some years got an appointment in India. Now, she was on her way to join her husband, and in passing through London, although she had only a few hours, she had sought me out that she might shake hands with me and express her thankfulness.

IN PRAISE OF RAGGED SCHOOLS.

Ragged Schools can never die—
No, never die!
Other schemes may rise and fall,
And loudly on the nation call,
But *Ragged Schools* excel them all;
They'll never die—no, never die!

Our *Teacher's* work can never die—
No, never die!
Though Satan tries with might and main,
His power shall all be spent in vain;
Our *Teacher's* work shall still remain,
And never die—no, never die!

For *Bible truth* can never die—
No, never die!
Though sceptics doubt and mockers jeer,
And careless ones refuse to hear,
For *Bible truth* we have no fear;
'Twill never die—no, never die!

The *seed* we sow can never die—
No, never die!
Though long unseen it may remain,
The teacher cannot sow in vain,
The *seed* shall bear the golden grain,
And never die—no, never die

The *scholars* taught shall never die—
No, never die!
And those whom we to Jesus bring
Hereafter shall in glory sing
Adoring praise to Christ our King,
And never die—no, never die!

Ragged Schools can never die—
No, never die!
Then let us help them all we can,
And pray that God will bless the plan
That saves the ruined sons of man,
Who never die—no, never die!

London, April 11th, 1883. J. E.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,

HELD AT EXETER HALL ON MONDAY, MAY 7*th*, 1883.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G., PRESIDED.

THE hall was densely filled, and on the platform was a choir of 697 prize-takers from 65 Ragged Schools, under the direction of Mr. Joseph Proudman, who gave a selection of songs and hymns at intervals during the proceedings. The EARL of SHAFTESBURY occupied the chair, and among those present were the Bishop of Bedford, Earl Fortescue, Lady Tite, Lord Robartes, the Lady Mayoress, Sir Robert Carden, M.P., the Rev. Prebendary Cadman, the Rev. G. W. Olver, the Rev. Paxton Hood, the Rev. C. H. Grundy, Mr. J. Hampden Fordham, &c.

The meeting having been opened with prayer by the Rev. Prebendary CADMAN, the SECRETARY (Mr. John Kirk) read a brief abstract of the Report, which stated that the distinctive work of the Union might be described as serving as a central bond of union to what would otherwise be a number of isolated agencies. It made grants of money for payments of teachers, &c., and carried on a friendly supervision and personal communication with the affiliated schools. It was also an agency for diffusing information, starting new agencies, calling local friends together, and otherwise stimulating action, and it awarded prizes to old scholars who had kept their situations for twelve months, and convened meetings for the promotion of work amongst the ragged. The prize scheme had been in operation for thirty years, and the total number of prize-takers had been 18,399. This year there were 734 applicants, of whom 697 were found to come within the rules laid down, and to be eligible for the prize. There are 128 boys and 156 girls taking books, and 413 boys and girls taking money. The new or extended operations were: — Eleven Sunday Schools, eleven Night Schools, five Institutes, eleven Bands of Hope, seven Bible Classes, six Sewing Classes, six Children's Services, two Christian Bands, one Preparation Class, two Gospel Temperance Societies, two Recreation Classes, two Mutual Improvement Classes, five Prayer Meetings, three Men's Clubs, two Clothing Clubs, one Coal Club, three Boot and Shoe Clubs, one Social Purity Society, one Medical Mission, one Seaside Home. In their last Report the Committee referred to the uncertainty of the tenure of the Lambeth Ragged School, but the Charity Commissioners had recently submitted a scheme which would soon be formally ratified, providing for the continued use of the building for Ragged School purposes, and giving a yearly sum from the endowment for the support of the school. The noble army of voluntary teachers had reached the total of 3,211, and to this number must be added 185 paid teachers and ninety-three monitors of the Day Schools. The morning attendance in 62 Sunday Schools was 4,772 children. The afternoon schools numbered 104 with 18,375 children in attendance, and the evening-

schools 88 with 18,979 attendants, a total of 37,354 of the poorest children in London under direct religious instruction on the Lord's day. The Day Schools have for the most part been maintained with efficiency and usefulness during the year, the number being 34 with 5,920 names on the books, and an average attendance of 3,323. Of Night Schools there are 136 connected with the Union—64 for boys, with an attendance of 2,319, and 47 for girls, with an attendance of 1,493, and 20 Mixed Schools, with 882 attendants, a total average attendance of 4,694, with 7,534 names on the books. There are many elder lads and girls over thirteen years who have never been taught or who had forgotten what was learnt, to whom these schools are a great boon. The Institutes, which might be called in most cases Night Schools, with Reading Rooms and Recreation Classes, were on the increase, there being up to the present 28 Institutes, with a membership roll of 1,132. Turning to industrial agencies, the Shoeblack Societies, which were called into being at the time of the Exhibition in 1851, have worked out astounding results, and had given many a poor lad a start in life, with the opportunity of earning an honest and in some cases a lucrative living. Last year the members numbered 367, and the earnings £11,935 17s. 10d., of which £573 4s. 3d. was in bank at Christmas, an increase of 13 in number and of £204 13s. 4d. in earnings. There were 70 Industrial Classes in the Schools, with an attendance of 3,163, the greater proportion of whom are girls attending Sewing Classes. The teaching of fretwork was very popular among the boys, as were also patching and boot-mending; wood-chopping, carpentering, rug and mat-making, and paper-bag making were also taught, and at George Yard the boys were taught printing, and used a press bought by Lord Shaftesbury for that purpose. There had also been exhibitions of work done by the scholars that have become increasingly popular with the schools. After a passing reference to the Soup Kitchens, Christmas Dinners, and Robin Dinners, the Report stated that foremost in importance, as regarded thrift and providence, was the Band of Hope, which existed in 98 schools, with the recorded membership of 11,070. The Penny Banks had continued their mission through the year with a utility that has commanded the confidence of 19,503 depositors in connection with the 76 banks established in the schools. The amount deposited had reached a total of £10,231 13s. 9d., and there was remaining in the bank a balance of £2,498 15s. 1d. at the close of the year. Associated with the banks might be mentioned the Clothing Clubs, the Boot and Shoe Clubs, the Loan Clubs, and other useful agencies. Thirty-eight schools reported the receipt of £1,296 8s. for Clothing Clubs alone. Some schools were very successful in training girls for domestic service, and in retaining a friendly oversight and communication with them. The number thus benefited and helped during the year was perhaps much understated at the figures recorded, 692. As regarded recreation, the Report mentioned that, by the kindness of Miss Courtauld, 90 children had last year the larger

benefit of a whole fortnight's change in the conntry, and the Committee were so impressed with the result that they had determined to found a Holiday House, and to give the schools the opportunity of selecting the children most deserving of a week or a fortnight's change. Several Christian Bands and Children's Services have been set in operation with much spiritual advantage. Many scholars have shown their aptitude for teaching, and have been added to the teaching staff. Of such who were formerly scholars very many have gone to work, and are earning their bread with so much credit that renewed applications are made for others from the same schools. Many have made an open profession of faith in Christ by becoming members of a Christian church. Others have left this world, giving assurance that they have gone to be with Jesus. Still very much remains to be done. As regards finances, the Committee had been entrusted by generous friends with a total sum of £5,924 7s. This was made up of £2,006 11s. 11d. donations, showing an increase of £800 over the previous year, of £1,241 10s. subscriptions, likewise increased to the extent of £350, and £23 19s. 6d. collections.

The BISHOP of BEDFORD: My Lord and Friends,—I think nobody could have worked even for a short time—and it is now three years and a half that I have been working—in the East of London without knowing what a tremendous need there is for such agencies as this whose interests you are promoting in this place to-night. One cannot go about the streets there and not at once see how many objects there are for such instrumentalities as these—when one sees these poor little souls, little shivering children, as I saw yesterday, sitting in their rags at the doors of the gin-palaces, or as one sees them at nights, hanging aimlessly about the streets until their parents come home, or come back to what I am afraid is a mere figure of speech to call home, for if you go inside you find it a very unhomelike place. If you can go—for, of course, in the position I hold and with the work I have to do, I cannot go; but my clergy in the East End of London do go, and a most hard-working, self-denying set of men they are. They do go, and they tell me what miserable, wretched places these little ones have to live in. When I know that in many, many houses there is no sort of chance of their being brought into contact with anything but sin, misery, drunkenness, and disease; when one sees these things, and when one goes inside the common lodging-houses—as I do go whenever I have a chance—and sees in these lodging-houses little children amid all the shame and sin and misery, one cannot but lift up the heart in thankfulness to God for the prosperity vouchsafed to this great movement.

Now, we have been already to-day, one or two of us on this platform, at another meeting called for a kindred purpose to this—called for the object of promoting Homes for waifs and strays. That society is working on a comparatively small scale; you are doing things on a greater scale, but they ought to be done on a much larger scale. It is calculated that there are in England at least a million and a quarter of destitute and neglected children—after all, what is the proportion

who have been rescued from that state of destitution? It is comparatively small. We want to do more, much more than we have done.

Now let me say just one or two words about, not civilising or humanising influences only, but the Christianising influence of your work. Of course, as a Bishop of the Church of England, that is nearest to my heart, and I am endeavouring to do all in my power in the East End of London to promote in every way I can the spiritual welfare of the people. Yet, while this is so, I should consider myself very unworthy of my post if I did not sympathise with a great deal more than direct spiritual work. I should consider myself lacking for my work—and God knows I am lacking enough already—if I did not consider myself bound to sympathise with all that will brighten the lives of those amongst whom I labour. These lives are sad enough, depressing enough, and we are thankful for everything which can lift up and brighten these lives. But the part of my work nearest and dearest to me is that part which brings to them the only power which makes brighter and truer human lives here below, and raises them up to a better life hereafter; that gives them a Brother who can guide them safely through the snares and temptations of this life, and will make this life in its measure no less happy than the life hereafter.

Now, of course, in view of such things, it comes home to one with the force of an irresistible conviction that the ordinary ministrations of religion are inadequate to overtake the whole work, but leave a great deal of work to be done. Speaking as a conscientious, intelligent Churchman, loving our services and fully believing in their value, I nevertheless say that our ordinary church services—and I am quite sure my friends and brothers of other Christian bodies will agree with me in saying that the settled and stated services of our churches and chapels are not enough to do the work of evangelisation. We rejoice in these ordinary services, but we feel that we want all sorts and manner of methods for reaching the hearts and lives of those who cannot be reached by the ordinary ministrations of religion. We want to go out amongst them, to speak to them in the open air, in mission halls, and in any place where we can get them to listen to us. We want all the Bible Classes, Ragged Schools, Sunday Schools, we can possibly get, and all those interesting efforts and agencies of which we heard in the Report read to-night.

One thing above all I thank God for, and that is the large army of volunteer teachers whom you have enlisted in this grand work. The work done by volunteers is always work precious and fruitful. I know that I myself, as a clergyman—and of course, all my clerical life, except the first year or so, when I laboured as a volunteer, I have received remuneration for my labour—but as a clergyman I have often envied the volunteer labourer, because I have often noticed how a poor man will say in his heart, if not right out, "He is paid for what he does;" but this volunteer comes and gives his time, his energy, his prayer, and his strength to the work. That fact

gives, amongst a certain class, the unpaid labourer an influence that no one else can command. Therefore I hail with peculiar thankfulness that special feature in your work, the volunteer and unpaid agency of such a large army of teachers.

Well, you know, for it has been alluded to in your Report, that it is stated by some that the Board Schools ought to take up this work; but *then they don't do it*. I do not want to enter on disputed matters, but I must say I have a good deal of reluctance at seeing the Board Schools aiming at higher education so long as they have not grappled with the wants of the lowest classes. We have our stated services, and we are very busy on Sundays, and have but little opportunity for special work. Still, thank God, we are doing something now in the way of additional work, of missionary effort, and of Evangelistic services. Every Sunday night we have a grand audience in the Beaumont Hall, and yesterday I was confirming in the parish church at Stepney, and there knelt before me eight men and four or five women, gathered simply by the missionary efforts in the Beaumont Hall. So I cannot but hail all such efforts, I cannot but remember that God has blessed such efforts as yours; I believe He has blessed them largely, and that He will continue to bless them. I was mentioning just now in the Mansion House one very delightful feature in the work of our little society for befriending the waifs and strays. I was in a country village some two or three weeks ago, where some of these little destitute children had been received, and it was very delightful to see these little things kindly cared for. One actually told us she had never slept in a bed in all her life, she had slept on a sack or a bundle of rags. Another said she had never sat down to a meal in her life, but had simply had her food handed to her where she stood. Now, in that Dorsetshire village these little children are made pets by the country people, and they are so bright and happy. Thank God! what is being done in that village is being done in a great many other villages. I would not mention this, but for this reason—that I wanted to say that these little ones who looked so bright and happy, and held up their hands in horror at the thought of coming back to London, yet when I turn round and look behind me on the platform to-night, when I have heard these songs so capitally sung, with such spirit and precision, I think as I see and hear them, "You do not need to go to Dorsetshire villages to be bright and happy." I say, thank God for the blessing He has already vouchsafed, and may He for the future grant still more abundant blessing through our dear Saviour.

Rev. E. PAXTON HOOD: My Lord Shaftesbury and dear friends,—I do not know that I have any very special claim to be heard by you on this grand and glorious theme, but assuredly my entire heart is altogether along with this great and good and beautiful and precious work. But it seems to me it is not a matter to talk about. Great deeds put to flight great speeches, and I think the best of all speeches is that behind me (the children on the platform). We have heard of the eloquence of silence, but to-night we

must have felt the eloquence of song; and I fancy many here would say, "Now, as short as you please, and let us have some more singing." I am glad to find, from the aspect of this large audience, that the interest in this work has not subsided. A Conference was held the other day in the Lower Hall for the purpose of discussing the question, "Is it advisable to keep up the ancient spirit of fire and love and enthusiasm of the Ragged School movement?" There was a very hearty expression of feeling on that occasion, and from what I then saw and from what I see to-night, I am convinced there is no disposition to relax the efforts you have made for so many years.

There are two or three aspects of your work which are most interesting, and about which I desire to say a few words.

In the first place, you do really go down to the very sewage of society for the purpose of purifying and clarifying the life-stream of humanity in that lowest strata running along our streets.

And, in the next place, it is a grand thing to think you do this through Christian teaching. You believe—we all believe, as a great writer has truly said—that there is nothing but an infinite pity which can go down to the paths of human suffering. We want more of that infinite pity which felt for us in our lost estate, and which raised us up—of that mercy which endures for ever. Nothing less will inspire men and women to go down to the lowest strata of society in order to raise and lift our fallen fellow-creatures to higher and better lives. You have done this in crowds, and instances in which you have been successful abound. While I believe the records of the Ragged School teachers are on high, I say that they are also on earth enshrined in marble, enshrined in those lives which bear testimony to the reclaiming and redeeming power of your labours. Lives such as these bear record that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. We have all had illustrations in the various circles in which we move of the power and influence the Ragged School system has exerted on society, and the good and precious and blessed boon it has been and will continue to be to the spiritual atmosphere round about the neighbourhoods where the schools have been at work. Long may they go on so to do. The great want of our country at this present time, the great want of our magnificent civilisation, is Christianity. We cannot do without Christianity. I suppose we are all in favour of education. We are all disposed to believe, as has been said, that a man without education is like the unhewn marble in the quarry. We all desire to see the citizens of this country educated; but we want, above all, to see elevation of Christian life and Christian sentiment. I believe, without reflecting at all upon the work of the Board Schools, or any merely secular schools,—I believe that merely to educate and cultivate a man, merely to give him polish and strength and understanding without educating the conscience or training one moral sense, is to transform a man into a piece of mere Bessemer steel; to make him sharp and hard and keen-cutting in the various pathways of life, the

various activities of labour; a man without a conscience. I am afraid in turning out such a man we only add one to the dangerous classes of society so largely abounding.

I go down among the lower classes; I see hundreds of such poor miserable creatures as those of whom you have heard! Oh, Britain! Oh, this wonderful country of ours! As I see them I have some thought of that wonderful sermon our Lord preached when desirous of producing a certain effect on the disciples round about. He took a little child and set him in the midst. Now suppose you take such a little child. You are in fact doing it. You set the child in the midst of the boasted civilisation of this great city, and you say, "What do you think of that poor little *gamin* picked up in your streets? What do you think of that poor, wretched, hungry, ragged street Arab? Is that all your civilisation can do? What can your life and culture do for these dark festering places of society?" Go down lower and lower, and ask, Where is the love, the power to redeem, transform, and raise such as these? Only in Christian love; only in the power of Him who came to save can such as these be saved, redeemed, transformed, and elevated.

I have already said that it does not seem to me that words are necessary, and, indeed, for this kind of speech I feel in myself a very considerable amount of unfitness. It seems to me, to stand in the presence of the great Ragged School movement and to attempt to make a fine speech, is something like one standing in the presence of Mont Blanc and attempting by an eloquent speech to magnify its grandeur; or one standing on the banks of Niagara and making a fine speech to show what a stupendous waterfall is before us. Like every truly great work, this speaks for itself; and it will continue to speak loudly and impressively and grandly, bringing more labourers into this great field, animating the heart of English society, calling forth hearty and abundant friends by the spectacle of the great work done. Something achieved, more expected in years to come.

Rev. G. W. Olver: My Christian Friends,—My object in appearing here this evening in response to the invitation which I have received was simply to take the opportunity of saying two or three words. In the first place to cheer those engaged in this great and very blessed work; and, in the next place, if it may not savour somewhat of audacity, to make something in the shape of an appeal to those here before me. For there are two facts which I have read in the Report and which will be present to your minds. If you look at the list which appears at the end of the Report, you may come to the conclusion that the Committee in charge of this Ragged School Union are very well in funds, but if you compare the balance-sheet with the Report itself, you will find that a considerable proportion of the income of the past year has come from special donations, and that the ordinary income of the Society is insufficient to meet the ordinary and necessary expenditure, and needs to be largely and liberally augmented. As to the workers, it has been said again and again that the work we have before us is essen-

tially a Christian work. I hope this is understood by this very large meeting.

But the fact that made the deepest impression upon my own mind, was that during last year, of all the children who have been cared for in these Ragged Schools, one in every hundred has become a communicant in some Christian church. I hope that is well understood, because I heard some one say in the anteroom just before we came on the platform, "This work means Christianity, or it means nothing," and it was added, "our only hope is in the Christianity, which is indeed heart and fire."

I can very well understand why it is that every now and then in some review or monthly serial we meet with the question, "Is life worth living?" You never heard of a Christian putting that question, though you have heard of many Christians answering it. The question, "Is life worth living?" never suggests itself to the heart of the man living in communion with the Most High. "Is life worth living?" I can understand the question being put by one of these little Ragged School children before you have picked him out of the gutter, or when he is first brought into the school and before he has experienced its benefit and felt the influence of Christian love. I can understand that on the threshold of higher and better things he may be ready to ask, "Is life worth living?" If he is to answer the question aright, you must give him something whereon to lean, something wherein to trust; he must be introduced to the Christian revelation, for unless you give him something that will satisfy the cravings of his soul, you will never give him anything really worth living for.

Now, it seems to me, in these days of criticism, we are being brought to face this question, and I want to face it to-night for two or three minutes. The question is this: "Are we going to abide by the old Revelation, or are we going to be content to depend on science? Now if we are not content with science we must be shut up to Revelation, and if we are not content with Revelation, we must be shut up to science. Which is it to be? Now I want you to understand what this means. What has science to offer you? Go throughout the length and breadth of the kingdom of science and you find one law. What is that law? The law of force, the law of might. Science has no morality; no right and wrong. Shut me up to science and I am shut up to the law of force. Might is right, and there is no right beside. Shut me up to science, then I must study the law of dynamics. Shut me up there, and you leave me nothing to fall back upon in my weakness but craft. If I have not muscle, craft must avail me; if I have not muscle I must fall back upon craft and guile. Science then will not avail us, and we turn to the Christian revelation.

Now you are trying to bring these lost ones to a knowledge of the Christian Revelation, the Revelation of the Great Father in heaven, by which alone they can be lifted up. And I want to say to you who are working, do not forget the central fact of our Christian religion; and I agree heartily with all the Bishop of Bedford has said about the insufficiency of Christian ordinances;

nothing will meet the needs of the present time except the acceptance of the one simple truth that the interests of God and man are identical, and that Jesus Himself stands by the side of every ragged child and says to you and to me day by day, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye did it unto Me." And to whosoever passes by the needy, the downtrodden, and the oppressed, the Redeemer says, "Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye did it not unto Me." Wherever you are called upon to give your work, I trust you may pursue the work you have undertaken. I beseech you one and all to remember that what you did was done to the Lord and for the Lord who bought you, that it is by Him recognised, and will be by Him rewarded.

A most interesting interlude followed in the presentation of the prizes—700 in number. The boys and girls who took prizes on this occasion were from the following schools:—

Amicable Row, 6; Brewer's Court, 6; Broad Street, 1; Brunswick Street, 4; Butler's Place, 5; Camden Town, 4; Castle Lane, 3; Chequer Alley, 12; Copperfield Road, 23; Croydon, 5; Dartford, 8; Deptford, 15; Dove Row, 10; Druid Street, 8; East Greenwich, 4; Ernest Street, 11; Field Lane, 17; Fox Court, 19; George Yard, 49; Gravesend, 9; Gray's Yard, 13; Grotto Passage, 4; Harrow Street, 4; Hatfield Street, 13; Henry Street, 5; Hope Street, 6; Horseferry Road, 12; Johnson's Court, 5; John Street, Shacklewell, 6; Jurston Street, 16; Kentish Town, 7; Kingsland, 7; King Edward (The), 48; Lamb and Flag, 83; Lambeth, 32; Lansdowne Place, 4; Limehouse, 1; Little Coram Street, 4; Little Saffron Hill, 3; Lower Park Road, 4; Marigold Place, 14; Mildmay Avenue, 1; Milton's Yard, 4; Morton Road, 22; Nelson Street, 8; New Tothill Street, 9; Ogle Mews, 26; Old Castle Street, 3; One Tun, 8; Parker Street, 7; Poplar, 4; Ratcliff, 1; Richmond Street, 5; Robert Street, 3; Rosemary Hall, 27; Rufford's Buildings, 11; St. James's Place, 9; Somer's Town, 3; Three Colt Street, 5; Victory Place, 7; Vincent Street, 3; Wentworth Street, 3; West Greenwich, 14; Wilkes Street, 2; Windsor, 2: total 697.

The teachers from the respective schools came on to the platform to receive the certificates and books from the hands of the chairman.

Our noble President, the Right Hon. the EARL of SHAFTESBURY, K.G., after expressing his regret at having to leave before the close of the proceedings, said: For thirty-nine years I have been President of this grand Institution, and I have not missed one anniversary. I think your Report said something about the "Justification of Ragged Schools." I never heard anything so unnecessary in all my life. Justification of Ragged Schools! Look what is before you now, and remember that the most of these children on the platform have been dragged from the depths of human misery, and ask yourselves does that require any justification? It is not justification of the existence of Ragged Schools we require, but an enormous extension of their operations; and that is

what the public must enable us to do. I remember the time when we had more than 300 day schools, and 30,000 scholars; I remember the children we trained and sent out into the world. These were and these are our justification. At that time I said—and I believe I can say it now—that I would back the boys of the Ragged Schools and the girls of the Ragged Schools against any equal number of boys or girls in the kingdom. I would go higher, and say I would back the girls above all the girls of all other schools. Why not? Who will contradict me? Bring me a single instance; prove to me that I am rather exaggerating in what I say. I have said it before but I desire to repeat it over and over again, that it may sink deep into your hearts and memories. Who will gainsay me when I assert—when I declare in sporting phrase, although I am no sporting man—that I would back the boys and the girls in the Ragged-Schools against twice their number from any other schools in the country. Did we not during the palmy days of the Ragged Schools pick up from the streets some 300,000 boys and girls, all of whom, if they had not been taken up, would have been found ere long among the dangerous classes? We picked them up, we trained them, we taught them to fear God and man, we sent them into trades, into domestic service, and far off to the colonies. Have any of them broken the hearts of their teachers? Have any of them proved a disgrace to the tuition they received? None, I tell you. We have, by the blessing of God, turned out 300,000 children as good and industrious citizens, who but for the intervention of these Ragged Schools would have gone to join the dangerous classes, and would have become a curse to this great country.

Well now, the Bishop of Bedford spoke very truly of what he had seen in the East End of London. It is frightful to behold even now. But he is a younger man than I am, and if he had seen what I saw fifty years ago, he would be astonished at the Paradisical state of London now compared with what it was then. Although matters are still very bad, we have now a magnificent force of principle, a magnificent development of Christian feeling, a magnificent army of Christian persons going in God's name into the holes and recesses, dragging to light the most wretched of mankind, and bringing them into the Ragged Schools, Asylums, and Refuges, to bask in the light and love of the Gospel. We did not expect such things fifty years ago, barely forty years ago, when Ragged Schools were first started. During the last forty years those noble Christian men and women have been found to do this great and mighty work; and the result is that this London, with its 4,000,000 of inhabitants, is yet in comparative security, and yet contains some remnants of decency, some elements of religion. It is a wonderful spectacle to see so many human beings of all sorts kept in order by such a small number of police and a still smaller number of soldiers. This result is wholly and solely due to the development of the Christian principles to which I have just now alluded.

Think how many teachers we have had entering on this great work. And remember that the

work of the teachers in former days was far more arduous and oppressive and perilous than it is now. I speak with the deepest reverence and affection for the volunteer teachers we now have, some 3,000 of whom devote so much of their time, strength, energy, enthusiasm, and prayers, and even their money, to the advancement of the temporal and eternal welfare of the neglected children. But at the very outset, before the thing was well understood, before funds were found to build these schools and halls, and provide proper accommodation in these places where you now gather the children—before that time the teacher had to go into the wretched resorts of these children, had to stay with them for hours in close, stifling places, exposed to everything that could offend the senses, exposed to the contagion and danger of infection arising from the bad sanitary state and the miserable and filthy condition of rooms in which their meetings were held. Then was the time when the greatest amount of self-denial, the greatest amount of energy, earnestness, and zeal must have been manifested by noble men and women. Now you say they are not exposed to the same harassing and perilous things. No, but I believe they are ready to brave them again should the necessity arise.

Now, is it nothing that we should have in England to-day such a noble army of Ragged School teachers, carrying these great principles of piety and righteousness and truth? May we not say that there is hope for England when she can produce such citizens, who, without hope of fee or reward, can in simple love to the service of the Master, and for the welfare of these children, devote the hours of the evening, after the hard toils of the day, to carry on this great work for the honour and glory of God. It is to me a matter of pride that I am a citizen along with those citizens who show such self-denial and perseverance as these under every difficulty and discouragement.

Well now, they talk of the London School Board, and I desire to speak with every respect of the work of the London School Board. We were at first at enmity one with the other, but we have now sworn eternal friendship with each other. I speak with due praise of the efforts they are making, but their duties are limited by Act of Parliament. The London School Board has now arrived at that point in human wisdom when men find out the extent of their powers and of the field before them. They now know that Ragged Schools reach a depth below them, and occupy a field which can only be occupied by volunteer agents. There is a certain line on which a Government institution must work. How could the red-tapeism and officialism of the School Board possibly enter into the care and superintendence of those varied institutions and agencies of which we have heard in the Report, and which experience has shown to be absolutely needful to achieve the end in view? You see that the whole system proceeds from that parental principle which these children know really nothing of at home. The parental care, the domestic training, the ten thousand little details of parental affection and love, which are extended in the Ragged Schools to children who have

never known such affectionate offices and which could never be brought within the operation of regular schools—these it is that have won the hearts of the neglected children, and have made them what they are to-day. The Clothing Clubs, the Bands of Hope, the Mothers' Meetings, the Bands of Mercy, and ten thousand operations of the kind undertaken by those who act on the parental principle, prove the hold that can be got of such children.

Then again the scene you have just witnessed proves the Ragged School Union does not turn the children adrift, when they have finished the period of education. They watch them with the utmost care, as a mother over her children; they put them into service, and visit them there. These dear girls sitting beside me now, are girls trained in our schools and now in intimate relations with their teachers, to whom they go as to mothers and friends in times of difficulty or temptation. The London School Board is perfectly aware of all this, and they have no desire to hinder or discourage it.

Now, what do they do for the children? These prizes are very desirable things, and you see their number is increasing every year. That is very good; but I am glad also to see that it is the rule to give every scholar, not only once a year, but twice a year, what they call recreation, but what I call a jollification. It is a necessity of the human race, and I am sure I for one like it. Well, these children look forward to it with great eagerness. Some persons speak as if this were money thrown away. It is no such thing. You cannot do a better thing with your money than give these poor little children a day in the green fields; take them out from the gutters and slums; let them see the flowers, smell the fresh fragrant hay, roll about on the green grass, and you do them a vast deal of good. Besides, I tell you you can exercise a greater moral control over the children by telling them that they won't be allowed, if they misbehave, to go to the jollification in the month of June, than if you were to flog them three times a week. It is a great moral system of government and control.

Now here you have 30,000 children, all requiring care and Christian kindness, all of whom ought to be brought under the parental influence and training of the Ragged Schools. And I want you to recollect the migratory habits of a vast number of these children, who on this very account it is utterly impossible that any system of voluntary schools, or free schools, or London Board Schools can reach. There are thousands, nearly a hundred thousand, of people in this great city who never remain more than three months, and often not as many weeks, in one place. In search of employment, or for some other reason, they are always on the move. How can the Board Schools reach their children? No sooner were they caught than they would be gone to some other district, and lost sight of. But it speaks volumes for the affection and love felt in the Ragged Schools, that in many cases a child who has only been a week in a Ragged School will, on coming into a new district, make as his first inquiry, "Where is the Ragged School?" The kindness and tuition

of that one week has established an influence in such a child's heart, and it has done something more—it has planted a seed which may fructify into eternal life.

Well, there are thousands, tens of thousands, such children knocking at your doors, praying to be admitted to your Ragged Schools. These little ones are ready to receive instruction, ready to undergo discipline from the hands of kindness; they crave for kindness, for they have known but little of it in their lives. I have known instances when four o'clock came and the school broke up, and time came for the children to go home, and they would not go, but said, "Let us stay here." Why? Because they were kindly treated. Did you ever hear of children wishing to remain in a Board School? Never, though they are very comfortably treated. But in the Ragged School they find what the heart craves for, and what they have never known before, and that is love. And they learn to love because they are loved. That is the parental system, the system which is in operation in your schools, the most beneficent system ever invented, a positive revelation from God. I do not hesitate to say that I pray God most earnestly that so long as there is a ragged child in existence, so long, by His grace and mercy, there may be a Ragged School open to receive, and protect, and love, and raise and elevate that child to a knowledge of the power and the wisdom and the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the noble Earl at the close of his address vacated the chair he received a grand and overwhelming ovation from children, teachers, and the audience of friends. Sir ROBERT CARDEN, M.P., occupied the chair on the Earl's departure.

The Rev. G. H. GRUNDY, M.A.: I want to tell you how to get money: Ask for it. This Ragged School wants money; we must not let it drop or flag; it is too grand and important a work for that. I hope the ladies will collect three times as much as the gentlemen. I knew something about collecting money, for I have to collect something like £3,000 a year for the Bishop of Rochester's fund. Now, I want the ladies here to take a hint from me, and get collecting boxes; put in something yourselves, get your friends to put in something, and place the box where it can be seen, so you will gather something in a year, and it will all help forward the Ragged Schools. That is all I have to say to you. Good night.

Now, boys and girls (turning to the children), I suppose you have all got a place? ("Yes.") Spell the word for me, will you? P-l-a-c-e. That's my text, the five heads of a short sermon I want to preach to you.

P stands for *prayer*. I hope you all pray. Hands up all who pray. I want to tell you what prayer is. It is asking God for what we want and expecting to get it. Now, I want you to pray for yourselves, for your masters and mistresses, and your companions. That is the first thing.

L. That is the next letter, and that stands for *light-heartedness*. Do you know the sort of boys and girls who work with great long faces, always sulking? Don't do that. Pray, and prayer will make you cheerful. That is what we

want. I once had a servant—we didn't keep her long—who always had a face like a cold buttered muffin, and when you asked her to do anything she said, "Eh?" Don't be like that.

A is the next, and that is *activity*. I want you to be active. Get up in the morning sharp. I used to teach the boys and girls about getting up in the morning. Get up in the morning, turn down the bed, open the window, find a big bucket of cold water and stick your head in it. Then you'll be active all day. Some try to slink through the day with their hands in their pockets. They'll never get on. I remember a young costermonger who was wheeling a barrow with some plants on it at night. A friend said, "You must be tired, won't you go to bed now?" "Do you see them plants? I can't go to bed till them plants are sold, and I can't afford to be tired till then." That's the spirit in which to work. I shouldn't wonder if that costermonger is a rich man some day.

C stands for *carefulness*. Save your money, boys and girls. Before you spend a sixpence, take it out of your pocket, look at it, and put it back in your pocket again. Go to the post-office, and put in what you can. I have a servant who has £30 in the bank. The first money I paid I said, "Now go and open a bank account." "But I want a pair of boots." "Oh, you can wait for them; start your account." She did, and she has all that saved to-day.

Then I want you to be careful how you leave your places. There is a monkey in Africa, a capital monkey he is, and he travels from tree to tree, but he never lets go with his tail till he's got a firm hold with his fore legs. If there's a girl here that's uncomfortable in her place I recommend her to stop in it, at any rate till she's got another. I stayed in my first place eleven years, and then I left with a character. I want you to be careful of your money, careful of your places, careful of your habits, careful of your companions; and you girls be careful of any temptation to stray from the path of virtue.

E, last of all, stands for *enterprise*. When you want a place put on your best things, and go and ask for it. There are lots of people who go about London waiting for something to turn up, but things won't turn up of themselves. The way to get on is to push your way. I believe there are some Ragged School boys connected with the Government. If you want to get up the ladder you must be enterprising; and, above all, don't forget prayer. P for prayer, L for light-heartedness, A for activity, C for carefulness, E for enterprise. Good night.

The Right Hon. the EARL of FORTESCUE: Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am delighted to have been present, and to listen to the admirable songs we have had from our young friends. More than forty years ago, when I first entered the House of Commons, I remember then how Lord Shaftesbury had already distinguished himself, as Lord Ashley, by his energy and perseverance in bringing forward again and again measures for the alleviation of the suffering and for the improvement of his fellow-creatures. His life has been a noble and consistent one. And as we look at

these young and bright faces and trust that their opening life may be crowned with success, we cannot but hope that our respected and venerable friend who has been so long their friend will persevere, as long as God gives him health and strength, in the path of duty. Long may we, at these meetings, have his presence here, that you may listen to his eloquent words of instruction and encouragement.

I am also asked to couple with this vote of thanks the name of my much respected friend who now occupies the chair, Sir Robert Carden, whose long and honoured life has also been given to the cause of benevolence. His hoary hairs are indeed a crown of glory to him. I add no more, but point out to these lads and girls such grand specimens of long lives spent in usefulness to our fellow-creatures, impelled by an abiding sense of duty to their Maker.

Mr. J. H. FORDHAM, in seconding the resolution, said: I rise with great pleasure to second the resolution which Lord Fortescue has proposed. In reference to Lord Shaftesbury, I would say it is no mere matter of form for us to vote our thanks to his lordship. We all love and revere him, and he has left an example to us who are his younger brethren, and to the generation of younger noblemen. His noble life has been devoted to the welfare of his fellow-men. I believe he has never been once absent from this chair since the time when he became the President of the Ragged School Union. We have rejoiced to see him amongst us to-day, almost reminding us of a great leader in Israel, "whose eye waxed not dim, nor his natural force abated."

It is also a pleasure to have here our venerable friend Sir Robert Carden, almost his contemporary. Before I put this to you, I would also refer to the presence of the Lady Mayoress, whose interest in our work is thus marked. I trust yet to see the walls of the Mansion House giving hospitality to the Ragged School Union; and probably some day we may see a Ragged School boy become Lord Mayor of London.

Sir ROBERT CARDEN, M.P.: Mr. Fordham has told you that Lord Shaftesbury attended the first meeting of the Ragged School Union nine-and-thirty years ago,—that one when only six attended. He has never been absent since, and I only hope he will not miss any for some years to come. And may I be permitted to add, may I be there to see him?

I am glad these children had a good substantial tea when they first came. I can only say I never see children so happy as when drinking tea and eating bread-and-butter and cake. I myself always look forward to this annual meeting as a schoolboy does to his holiday. I would not be absent on any account. There is no pleasure I feel in life like being present here and seeing these dear children.

After the closing hymn,

Prebendary CADMAN pronounced the benediction, and the proceedings concluded.

THE ANNUAL JOLLIFICATION.

THE majority of human beings are very restricted in their impressions and desires. Whatever the bright sunshine may mean to the farmer, there is no doubt that to the children pent up in close rooms and crowded cities its genial rays mean the early advent of holidays. We are quite sure that none of our readers would wish this feeling to be fruitless. By a well-established precedent the children of our Ragged and Mission Schools know that they will get their day in the country, and already teachers and officers are anxiously casting about for the most available spot, the most suitable time, and for the all-important funds. For the most part all these are easily secured, and each school is able to gratify its numerous family without difficulty. But the Committee of the Union have always found a certain number of schools, from some cause or other, unable to undertake the responsibility of an outing themselves. To prevent disappointment in these cases, they have been wont to gather such children and to provide them with a holiday. This has been done without encroaching upon the general funds of the Society, and in a very simple way. Our President has now for thirty years penned a note of appeal, as hearty as brief, and kind friends have responded to a sufficient extent to enable the Committee to overtake all arrears. Ere this meets the eye of the reader it is hoped that upwards of 2,000 children will have spent a happy day amid surroundings the very antipodes of their ordinary haunts, and this anticipation is based upon the result of the following appeal, which has been issued to some of our subscribers who have shown interest in this scheme in the past. Lord Shaftesbury writes from 24, Grosvenor Square, W.:—

"As the season has returned for the excursion of the Ragged School children, I am once more a suppliant for your bounty in aid of this great benefit to their minds and bodies. I trust that you will assist myself and the Committee of the Union as liberally as in former years."

It is, however, not too late for any friends to assist the funds now, because the Committee are hoping to be able also to help a few of the more sickly children to a longer holiday.

They have been making inquiries for a roomy house in the open country, not too far distant from London, or at the seaside, whither it is intended to send batches of children from the Ragged Schools in London. At present they have not succeeded in securing the desired accommodation, and it is mentioned here in the hope that our readers may be able to assist in the search. Already in the past the benefits

of this health and pleasure-giving scheme have been demonstrated, and the boon of such a "Holiday House" as above indicated would be incalculable.

STEPHEN THE YEOMAN RAGGED SCHOOL.

The reader who has made the voyage from London to Greenwich will remember that the first place of call below bridge bears the pleasant name of Cherry Garden Pier. He must, however, have been a very sanguine voyager indeed if he looked to find there by the muddy banks of the Thames, and on the confines of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, so much as a single root of a cherry-tree, or the sorriest make-believe of a garden. Times have changed since the days when the title was appropriate, which assuredly was long before the era of penny steamboats. For this region behind and about the pier is now covered by wharves and a wilderness of dwelling-houses, inhabited by a dense population of the very poorest class. It is not necessary here, even if space were to permit of such detail, to describe the homes and the lives in this riverside district. How dark and cheerless these are, only those who have visited in such localities can realise. There are hundreds of families always within measurable distance of starvation; families of six or seven, sometimes more, often crowded into one small room. That they form a phenomenon not singular in London, does not therefore lessen the obligation on people more happily situated to provide pity and help.

Two or three and twenty years ago a number of Christian men, living near by the part of London with which we are dealing, recognising how pressing the need was for light in so dark a place—it was even much darker then than now—formed themselves into a committee and opened a Ragged School in its heart, in a street with the flowery name of Marigold. From the first they found plenty of scholars. The lads and girls crowded the little room, and in the main it may truthfully be said they heard the Gospel gladly. By-and-by, thanks in the first place to the Earl of Shaftesbury, who introduced to them the late Miss Maria Louisa Charlesworth, a lady who to the day of her death continued the most munificent and sympathetic of friends, the committee succeeded in raising the building figured in our illustration, and honourably known as Stephen the Yeoman Ragged School, the name being given in memory of a Christian farmer, the leading character in Miss Charlesworth's "England's Yeoman."

Twenty years have passed since the school was opened. Of the early teachers many have gone to their reward. A multitude of

children who otherwise would have been without opportunity of hearing of God and heaven have passed through its classes out into the world, hundreds of them to live useful and honourable lives. The little Sunday evening school in course of time expanded to a comprehensive Mission, including a Day School, Sunday Afternoon and Evening Schools, Band of Hope, Penny Bank, and Mothers' Meeting, which are all in full operation and prosperous to a high degree. This expansion has taken place within the one room, for the successors of the original committee have never been in a position to add to their one building. How much more with greater accommodation might have been accomplished can be guessed at, when regularly on Sunday evenings the superintendent finds himself reluctantly obliged to refuse admittance to dozens of would-be scholars. It is the old story—money is needed. Here is the material to work upon in abundance and easy of access. Nor are the workers wanting; but the committee cannot stir a step beyond their present limit for lack of funds. Nay, it is worse than this. Within the last two years, owing to various adverse circumstances, chief among them the death of Miss Charlesworth, the subscriptions to the School and Mission have seriously fallen off, till now they are considerably under the expenditure.

Unfortunately for Stephen the Yeoman, Bermondsey and Rotherhithe are to a large proportion of the philanthropic world unknown regions. Everybody has heard of the East End; Lambeth New Cut and St. Giles's are familiar places, and the duty to assist the dwellers in them is recognised. But Bermondsey only suggests visions of tanyards and recollections of unsavoury odours, and therefore a district to be avoided as entirely as possible. The cry for help from so uninteresting a Macedonia is thus for the most part not unnaturally unheard. Can we persuade the readers of this magazine to lend the workers at Stephen the Yeoman a helping hand? That is the point. A little money bestowed here means an opportunity given to some poor creature to learn of the Saviour who died for him. It means the strengthening of the hands of an energetic body of labourers who are earnestly striving to spread a knowledge of the Gospel in a very benighted region. A little money! Lightly parted with in a hundred ways, diverted into a channel like this who can estimate the good it may do?

At the present moment the committee of Stephen the Yeoman are in a position which makes them keenly desirous to raise funds. Apart from the fact that their income in considerably under their expenditure, they desire to extend their operations. A generous friend is willing to defray one-third of the expense of building additional

rooms to the existing school on condition that the remaining two-thirds shall be forthcoming. The entire cost could not exceed £600. It surely ought to be possible to raise two-thirds of such a sum for a cause so worthy. Again we ask, will our readers lend a hand here?

This is the picture we present—a green oasis in a dry and thirsty land, a school in which Christian knowledge is dispensed to a crowd of neglected children. There are pressing about the door many who cannot be allowed to enter because there is no room for them; and away from this school, in the streets and at home, they must learn the miserable lessons of sin, and, too often, crime. God's creatures are they every one, yearning unconsciously for news of their Father. It cannot be right that when the messengers are ready they shall not be permitted to deliver their message. And the parents of these children! Given the opportunities which would follow increased accommodation, the workers in Stephen the Yeoman School believe that they could do additional good things for the men and women of the district. These workers have done so well in the past with the limited resources at their disposal, that they may well be entrusted with the larger for which they crave. Surely it only wants that their story should be known for assistance to flow in freely. We are so confident of this that we are content to leave this appeal as we have made it and without further amplification.

We must, however, add that the patron of the School and Mission is the Earl of Shaftesbury; the president, Donald Matheson, Esq., Queen's Gate, S.W.; the hon. treasurer, the Hon. H. A. Lawrence, 19, St. Dunstan's Hill; the secretary, Mr. Geo. Hodges, 7, Rose Terrace, Trundley Road, Deptford; and the superintendent, Mr. John Menzies, 316, Southwark Park Road, S.E. Subscriptions will be gratefully received by either of the last three, and they may be made to the General Funds of Stephen the Yeoman, to the Building Fund, or to both.

RAGGED CHURCH AND CHAPEL UNION.

The thirtieth annual meeting of this society was held at Exeter Hall on Wednesday evening, May 23rd, Mr. George Williams presiding.

Rev. Burman Cassin, M.A. (Rector of St. George the Martyr, Southwark), honorary secretary, read an abstract of the report. The number of preaching stations was 106, and during the year 9,224 Sunday services had been held, with an aggregate attendance of

10,318, and 64 week-night services, attended by 3,365 persons, and 40 senior children's services, attended by 4,041. In all 20,196 persons were brought under Gospel influences in connection with the society every Lord's day. Estimated by the numbers in attendance, more souls are savingly converted than through any other known form of agency.

Mr. W. A. Blake (secretary) read the balance-sheet, as follows:—Balance due to treasurer, March 31, 1882, £51 11s. 11d.; disbursements, £431 6s. 3d.; total, £482 18s. 2d. Receipts, £400 7s. 3d.; balance due to treasurer, £82 10s. 11d.; total, £482 18s. 2d.

The Chairman said the labours of that institution were devoted to the very lowest of the human family. Any one who visited one of those stations would be satisfied of the necessity of carrying on that work. Fifty thousand of the poorer classes were added to London every year. What could be done to meet the pressing needs of those multitudes unless those halls were multiplied? He would ask Christians to arouse themselves, and double the paltry income of £400.

Rev. G. D. Hooper, in moving the adoption of the report, said it must have moved the hearts of all who heard it. It was perfectly needless to speak of the necessity of that work, it solved the problem of reaching the masses, and deserved a recognition which it had never yet had. It was a scandal to London that such a movement as that should be in debt and languishing for lack of funds. Money could be got to found new bishoprics or to build cathedrals, and he had heard of a church at the West End where £1,200 a year was spent on the musical service only. There were endowments in the City of London for the benefit of the poor, and though they had been driven away from the City, they were entitled to the benefit of those funds.

Rev. R. C. Billing, M.A. (Rector of Spitalfields), said the society was not only doing the right thing, but doing it in the right way. They must have those mission halls. A great deal was to be done by out-door preaching, but there were those who would not stand at street corners to hear the Gospel, and they must be reached in other ways.

Mr. John V. Farwell, of Chicago, said if he could add a mite to that cause he should be glad to do so. He had been associated with Mr. Moody in Chicago, and he knew the benefits which had resulted from similar work there. He had been struck with one sentence in the report, which stated that in proportion to the attendance more souls had been converted at those mission halls than by any other agency in London. And only £400 income! There were a number

of churches in that great city of London where they did not hear of conversions. But there were over 100 stations in connection with that society, and conversions recorded every week. He wanted to divide the debt due to the treasurer with his brother, Mr. Williams.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that that was a very practical speech, and he should be happy to agree to Mr. Farwell's suggestion.

The meeting was afterwards addressed by Colonel SANDWITH, Mr. GEORGE HOLLAND, and Major J. SMITH.

Mr. BLAKE said the Chairman had given £40, Mr. Farwell £40, and the Rev. W. Tyler the balance of the debt on last year's account.

A vote of thanks was moved by the Rev. B. CASSIN, and seconded by the Rev. W. TYLER, which was briefly acknowledged by the Chairman.

TESTIMONIALS AND PRESENTATIONS.

KING EDWARD RAGGED SCHOOLS.—TESTIMONIAL TO MR. C. MONTAGUE.

ON Friday, April 6, an interesting social gathering took place at the King Edward Ragged Schools, King Edward Street, Spitalfields, the occasion being the presentation of a testimonial to Mr. Charles Montague, who for nearly twenty years has been the honorary superintendent of the schools. The testimonial, which the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., had kindly undertaken to present, consisted of an upright grand pianoforte, manufactured by Messrs. Parfitt and Denham, of Caledonian Road, which bore the following inscription: "King Edward Ragged Schools. Presented by the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., President, on behalf of the teachers, scholars, committee, and friends, to Mr. Charles Montague, in appreciation of the long and faithful services rendered by him as superintendent and honorary secretary."

The Noble Chairman was supported on the platform by Mr. Charles Montague, the Revs. J. De Kewer Williams, J. Saunders, B.A., and R. T. Thomas, Captain Ronaldson, Messrs. J. Lobb, M.L.S.B., J. Y. Knight, F. Straker, M. Swan, E. M. Cross, H. R. Williams, R. J. Curtis, and John Kirk, of the Ragged School Union.

After singing and prayer, the Rev. J. De Kewer Williams moved the following resolution in very hearty and appreciative terms: "That this meeting desires to acknowledge the Divine goodness which has accompanied the work of the King Edward Schools during the thirty-seven years of their existence, and prays that the blessing of the Most High may still attend the instruction given from week to week. They desire

also to record their sense of the value of Ragged Schools, and the need that exists for their continuance and extension."

The Rev. J. Saunders, B.A., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Noble Chairman, on rising to make the presentation, was received with hearty applause. He said the duty had been assigned to him, and he might also say the honour entrusted to him, of presenting a testimonial to their friend Charles Montague. He undertook it with very singular satisfaction, not only because he had such a high personal esteem for the man himself, but because he thought they showed their respect and their affection for a man who, in his life, had set a most remarkable example, which, his lordship hoped, with God's blessing, would have many imitators, in the career which Mr. Montague had marked out for himself. Now, the testimonial they were presenting must be taken as a sign, and not as a measure, of their esteem and respect. As a sign it would do very well, but as a measure it would be very incomplete, for if they were to take that testimonial as a measure of the work the recipient had accomplished, it would demand very much larger recognition than that they were about to accord that night. In 1815—and that was a great many years ago—the Duke of Wellington went down to the House of Parliament to receive public thanks for the great services he had rendered to the nation. Although a boy at that time, he remembered very well the Speaker of that day rising, while the duke was standing at the bar of the House, and going through the long series of great achievements wrought by the courage and military skill of the noble duke, showing step by step what victories he had won, and the great demand he had made on his country's gratitude. It was right that it should be so. His lordship had before him a long record of the services rendered by their friend Charles Montague, which might not be of the same blazoned and brilliant character as those of the great duke, but whether the effect they had produced, and would continue to produce, would not have a greater and more abiding influence on the mind of the country was beyond question. He would not detain them a long time by reading the details of the various ways in which Mr. Montague had worked up the school. He might tell them how he began by being a Ragged School boy himself, and how he had risen to be superintendent of that school, held a high position as a citizen of this great metropolis, and was a man whom people looked up to, and when they mentioned his name did so with respect. But his lordship would not trouble them with the details, because Mr. Montague was known to them without the necessity of explanation. They were all aware of his services; they knew that for twenty years he had laboured day and

night, with unremitting zeal and untiring ardour, for the welfare of that school and all the children who came there. His services began as a Teacher in 1856, and as Superintendent in 1864, Mr. Montague being a young man at that time, his lordship being well stricken in years, having attained to the age of more than three score. He could not help being struck with the words of the hymn with which they opened the meeting, "Work, for the night is coming." Mr. Montague would feel that they meant it as a hint to him, and his lordship certainly took it as a hint to himself, for he had not forgotten the ovation he received some time since on his attaining the age of fourscore years. He wished to call their attention not only to the services rendered by Mr. Montague to that school, but he would impress on all young people the fact that the services which a man like Charles Montague rendered to society were not confined to what he accomplished by his own immediate instrumentality in the superintendence of a school like that. In addition, he set a great example, and they might be assured that many hearts were stirred up by the influence of such a man, and setting the example he had he would have many imitators, some of whom he might never see, never hear of, and never meet. To have many imitators following his example was one of the greatest rewards a man could find—the conviction that, under God's blessing, his course had been such as to raise up many more to follow his career, and to serve God for the advantage of His kingdom and the welfare of the human race. Charles Montague was in that position, and he furnished a remarkable instance of what might be achieved when a man began in earnest on the principles of integrity and religion, and resolved upon a course of honesty, steadiness, sobriety, and diligence in his calling. His lordship trusted Charles Montague would continue in the course he had begun, that there would be no relaxation in his efforts, no flagging of his zeal, and no satiety in the work he had chosen; but that he would go on showing, as he had hitherto shown by the way in which he lived, to the very end of life, that "the path of the just is as a shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." He had now to present to Mr. Montague, in the name of the teachers, scholars, committee, and friends, in appreciation of his long and faithful services as superintendent and honorary secretary of the King Edward Schools, the pianoforte now in that room.

Mr. Charles Montague, with great self-command, and in a speech of some length, expressed gratefully his sense of his lordship's kindness in coming to present the testimonial, and of the great honour his friends had conferred upon him in marking him out for such special recognition.

Mr. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, said during all the years

Mr. Montague had laboured in the work of these schools he had had the honour of visiting them, and of observing his earnest and untiring services. He would remind those who were desirous of imitating his successful career, that his work was not intermittent, but continuous, and thoroughly unselfish in its character.

Mr. John Lobb, M.L.S.B., said that Mr. Montague and himself were not only scholars but commenced also their Christian work in the King Edward Ragged Schools.

Messrs. Fisher and Stubbings, who had worked most indefatigably in the matter of the testimonial, moved and seconded a vote of thanks to Lord Shaftesbury, which was carried with enthusiasm.

Mr. H. R. Williams, who has been connected with the Institution for thirty-six years, and who would therefore regard Mr. Montague as one of its spiritual offsprings, said a few hearty words about him and his devoted work among the poor.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOLARS OF DOVE ROW RAGGED SCHOOL.

The annual distribution of prizes took place on Wednesday, the 18th April, in the large hall, Morley Hall, Triangle, Hackney, the Rev. William Marshall, president, in the chair. After an interesting address to the children by Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, the prizes were distributed to 66 scholars by the chairman, who also presented to the superintendent a handsome davenport with a silver plate bearing the following inscription :—

DOVE ROW SUNDAY AND RAGGED SCHOOL,
In connection with
Cambridge Heath Congregational Church.
PRESENTED TO
WILLIAM GIBBS COTSFORD,
Superintendent,
In the 14th year of his office, by his Fellow Officers and Teachers, as a mark of their confidence and esteem.

Rev. Wm. Marshall, *President.* — A. H. Rowan, *Hon. Sec.*

The presentation was gratefully acknowledged by Mr. Cotsford, after which Messrs. J. B. Allbrook, F. Hoon, Newman, Noakes, Martin, and Simmons, made short and pithy speeches, the children sang several hymns, and the Drum and Fife Band played several selections during the meeting.

YOUTHS' INSTITUTES.

As these agencies are deservedly on the increase, and seek to touch the youths at every point, it may be well to point out how interesting even the game of chess may become to the members under the guidance of an enthusiastic and thoughtful superintendent. He not only interests them in the game as a game, but seeks to call the faculty of invention into play by the construction of chess problems.

Old Pye Street, Westminster, has been gathering some laurels in this field. The problem given below may be quite simple, or may be as easy, as boys say, as "kiss your hand," but it is a step in the right direction—viz., that of innocent mental activity.

In *Land and Water* of March 10th the following encomium is given:—

"The Youths' Institute of Old Pye Street, Westminster, is destined, we should say, to become a nursery of expert problemists. As the Duke of Albany said in his Birkbeck speech, everything depends upon the 'Opening.' He was using chess as an illustration of life, but the axiom holds good of chess itself considered as an acquirement. In youth the brain is equally receptive and retentive. If, therefore, the young mind be early imbued with, and well trained in, any art or science, it obviously has for the special object in view a marked advantage at starting. The youths of Pye Street Institute are in that favourable condition with respect to chess, and particularly its problem department, for Mr. W. Geary, than whom no one could be more competent, has devoted his abilities to the task of instructing and training them. We have before us the conditions of a solving competition among these youngsters, and its mere framing implies an advanced stage of knowledge and intelligence on their parts. Mr. Geary informs us that various composers of repute, whom he names, assist him by contributing their problems (before publication elsewhere) for solution, and he says that sometimes his young pupils hit blots which the contributors are glad to have brought to their notice. The youths themselves try their hands at composition, and we have one before us by G. Knott, which we intend to publish at an early date."

In the number for March 24th appeared:—

"PROBLEM No. 671, BY G. KNOTT.—*The composer of this problem is a member of the Youths' Institute, Old Pye Street, Westminster.* His avocation is that of a railway signal-boy. We doubt not that he pursues chess under difficulties. The composition is well up to publicatio standard, and we have, therefore, much pleasure in publishing it."

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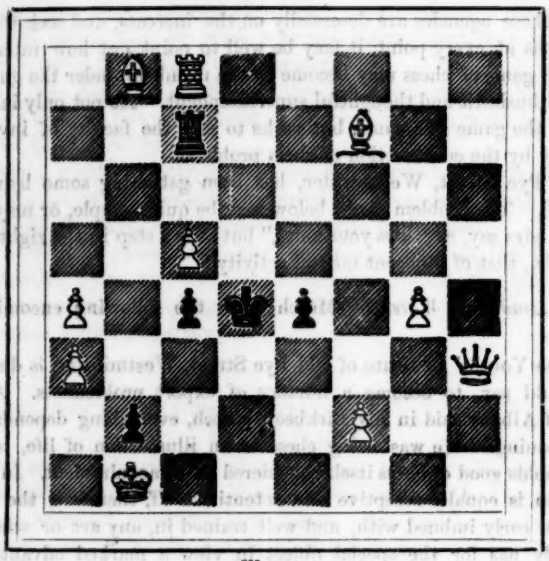
PROBLEM No. 671.—By G. KNOTT.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

Mr. Geary says that the Institute played during the last season two matches at chess with the Castle Lane Institute, and was successful on both occasions. The first match resulted in a victory for Pye Street by seven games to one. The return match resulted in a victory for the Pye Street team by six games to none.

A match, which proved a very close affair, was also played with the Polytechnic Club. The contest, which took place at the latter Institute, was very keenly contested, eight players on each side being engaged in it. When time was called, seven games had been scored by each Institute and one game was partly played. By the conditions of the match this position had to be adjudicated upon by the umpire, and that functionary gave his decision in favour of Westminster. So that the scores stood at the the termination of the match—Westminster (Pye Street) 8, and Polytechnic 7. There was to have been a return match, to come off at the Westminster Institute, but at the critical moment the Polytechnic failed, sending a message that they were unable to get a team together. Pye Street accordingly scored the match in default.

Correspondence.

"LIFT UP YOUR EYES AND SEE, FOR THE FIELDS ARE ALREADY WHITE UNTO THE HARVEST."

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Quarterly Record.

21, Clonbrook Road, Stoke Newington,
May 24th, 1883.

DEAR MR. CURTIS,—I have great pleasure in forwarding you the following statement of my work amongst the young during the past winter. I have seen many deeply impressed under the Word. I have seen the cheek pale, and the tear start to the eye, while telling the story of Calvary. And they have come to me at the close of the school and said, "It has been a nice school to-night." I have watched the anxious ones and spoken to them privately—told them of the danger of delay and putting off till to-morrow what we can do to-day. The result has been decision for Christ in more cases than one. And, while telling the old, old story to them, my own soul has been blessed, showing how good our God is, and faithful to His promise that "in blessing I will bless thee" (Gen. xxii. 17). I often think, let these young friends pass through life as best they may, it is but a world of care. Therefore, if by God's help I have been the means of making one bright spot in their lives, unto Him be all the praise.

We are now going to have two classes each week, one for Bible teaching and one for singing. We have several young women in our classes, therefore it is rather more difficult to keep them together; we must give them something different to young girls, and we think the singing will be more attractive.

I enclose a letter received from one of my scholars this week,* showing my labour has not been in vain. This dear girl is living in the midst of a most ungodly family, having daily to hear their scoffing and jeering. She is a bright light amongst her companions; many are being won by her quiet demeanour.

I am happy to add that this has been to me a labour of love, and I am looking forward to the time when on that celestial shore I shall

* The letter is as follows:—"Dear Teacher,—I can now see why you have been in earnest about my soul. You knew that I was halting between two opinions, and I think how disheartening it must have been to you after you had spoken to me to still refuse the offer; but still your prayers and pleadings have not been in vain, for the Lord has heard them, and I can tell you that you have, by God's grace, been the means of my conversion, and my desire now is to trust Him with all my heart, and to live a Christian life, and to do all I can to please Him."

see Him who has done so much for me, and hear Him say, "Well done."

That God may abundantly bless each worker in this part of the vineyard is the earnest prayer of yours very faithfully,

E. GLOCKLING.

The same strain is continued by another writer:—

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—I am glad to see that you are gathering scraps of experience and encouragement of Ragged School work, for I fear there has not been too much of it in the past. There is danger, I know, in making too much of results, but this should not hinder the recording of cases of blessing for the encouragement of other teachers who may be despondent at the lack of success. One great cause of discouragement in our work is the difficulty of retaining the elder scholars or bringing them to the point of decision for Christ. Whilst we lament this, let us rejoice whenever the difficulty is overcome.

It was my privilege recently to meet over fifty girls and youths in the south of London between the ages of fifteen and twenty, all of whom have openly professed an interest in Christ, and who for the most part are witnessing a good confession as to its reality in their daily lives. They meet once a week in the schoolroom for counsel and prayer, and it is not difficult to see the benefit that must accrue from the efforts of their teachers to build up the converts in their most holy faith. Have we in the past, think you, paid as much attention to make impressions permanent as we have to win adhesion to the Saviour's love? I will not attempt to answer this question, but I do feel how important it is not only to get the children to decide for Christ, but to help them in every possible way afterwards to live as becometh His disciples. EGLISE.

REAPING.

A few sheaves as an earnest of the greater harvest:—

Giffin Street says:—It gladdens our hearts, in reviewing the work of the past year, to be able to report favourably upon the marked spirituality which is manifesting itself in many of the children. Of their two Bible-classes they report that amongst their members may be found young men and women who have grown up under their teaching almost from infancy. An interesting case has recently come under notice of one of the members of the Girls' Class who entered a situation in a subordinate position to an irreligious servant, where her religious principles were tested, and she left her situation rather than participate in the deceit practised upon her employers.

Vinegar Ground, &c.—Mr. Eastell, who commenced his labours in an upper room in Colchester Street under Mr. Champneys some thirty years ago, and has since laboured at Hammond Square, and now in the Vinegar Ground, reports that, independently of many who became good citizens and consistent Christians, five became teachers who were formerly scholars. One girl named Whitehead became a member of the Tabernacle, City Road, and subsequently married a missionary. One lad who took a prize this year was received also in May into church fellowship.

Sermon Lane, speaking of its Gospel Total Abstinence Society, says that men once habitual drunkards, reckless and heedless of the misery they were involving their wives and families in, are now found steady, industrious, and God-fearing, constant in their attendance at the Sabbath worship, diligent in business, and in a fair way to positions of respect and honour, whose homes are now the abodes of peace and love instead of misery and strife. Some unfortunately fall away, but a far larger proportion than might be expected are true to their resolve.

Richmond Street, Maida Hill, Ragged School and Industrial Home.—Mr. Amos reports among others the two following interesting cases:

"Some years since the parents of a family in this parish became very much addicted to drink, and from a respectable position were reduced to the lowest depths of misery and degradation. The poor mother died a shocking death, leaving six children. The father continued his downward course, and soon came to a wretched end. Considering the poor children had such bad examples and influence, it was surprising that they exhibited so much that was hopeful and encouraging in their conduct during their attendance at our Ragged School. The eldest brother and sister contrived to keep the little home together, but they had a very hard struggle. The next boy was taken into our Home, and when he obtained employment his younger brother was received. One of the sisters was placed in a Home for girls, and the rest have procured respectable employment, so that all have had a comfortable start in life. The other day one of the brothers, who is now in business for himself in the North of England, came to see the superintendent. He said, 'We owe a great deal to our friends in the Ragged School and the Boys' Home; my brothers and sisters and I shall never forget it. We are all doing pretty well, and we have tried to help each other, but we should never have got on without the assistance of yourself and other kind friends.'"

"P.G. was the son of a poor widow in this neighbourhood, who was left in delicate health with several young children. She struggled hard to bring them up aright, but her eldest boy was very self-willed and a great trouble to her. In his first situation he was found to be dishonest;

but his employer, out of consideration for his poor mother, did not prosecute him. He was taken into our Home, but his temper and conduct were almost unbearable, so that it became a question whether he could be retained. At last there was an evident change, and by God's help he became one of the most gentle, persevering, and intelligent lads that ever came into the Institution. One of our committee recommended him as messenger in an office to a gentleman in the City, who was delighted and astonished at the lad's extraordinary abilities and business habits, so much so that he sent a Christmas donation of £10 by his friend to the Home, and very soon put the lad on his staff of salaried clerks. He has since acquired a practical knowledge of the French, German, and Spanish languages. The mother lives in a comfortable house provided by her once troublesome boy, and her gratitude is beyond expression. Some time since she came to the Home, and when she saw the superintendent, she dropped on her knees, and, lifting her eyes and her hands to heaven, she invoked blessings upon the Home and upon all who had been the means of saving her beloved son from ruin, and making him all that a mother's heart could desire."

Church Street Mission, Gravesend.—Miss Broom says: "Many of the lads whom we call our roughs have given themselves to the Lord. They could not read or write, but have now begun to do so. Some of the navvies who are working at the new docks attend our meetings, and some bring their wives. Some have been induced to lead a better life. A week of special services was very fruitful. A very wicked and drunken woman has become happy by Divine grace."

Notices of Books.

The World in Pictures. 2s. 6d. each. (Cassell, Petter, Galpin, and Co., Ludgate Hill, London.)

This series embraces "The Eastern Wonderland," "Japan," "Peeps into China," "Glimpses of South America," "Round Africa," "The Land of Temples," "India," and "The Isles of the Pacific." These books are rich with interesting facts, simply and briefly told, and well-cut engravings literally throng the pages. They instruct and edify; they appeal to the imagination, and soften the heart; they widen the sympathies and create a thirst for more information. They are just the books for Ragged Schools, Sunday School and Home Libraries, and gift or reward books.

Mrs. Reaney's *Shilling Series.* "Found at Last," "Unspoken Addresses," "Little Glory's Mission," &c. (Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton.)

This series of interesting stories, short and rapid in utterance, and full of noble purpose, is admirably adapted for perusal at Mothers' Meetings, and would be a suitable addition to any Sunday or Ragged School Library.

Smith's *Canal Adventure by Moonlight.* Price 3s. 6d. (Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton.)

This book was spoken of approvingly in the volume for 1882. All persons of a philanthropic turn should read this book, for boat children and gipsy children are a greatly neglected class. Many persons are moving heaven and earth to extend the sphere of the "Great Education Act," and others are making praiseworthy efforts for the extension of religious education by means of the schoolmaster. Unless these two influential parties do their best to second the efforts of George Smith, of Coalville, to gather in this large floating and migratory population, the taint of insincerity will rest upon their zeal. It will be impossible after reading this book to remain indifferent to the claims of these children.

Notices of Meetings.

POPLAR RAGGED SCHOOL.

On Easter Monday 160 of the scholars who attend the free evening classes of the above school were provided with a tea and entertainment. The success of the arrangements was due to the united labours of those who from time to time take part in this time-honoured sphere of Christian labour. The meal consisted of a plentiful supply of tea, cake, jam, bread and butter, and oranges. After tea Mr. T. Laidler exhibited the dissolving views kindly lent by the Ragged School Union, in addition to some belonging to himself. The series of pictures included John Gilpin's ride to York, the story of Dick Whittington, and a few pictures on natural history.

MILLWALL JUVENILE MISSION, TOBAGO STREET, WEST FERRY ROAD.

The second anniversary of the above mission was recently celebrated by a tea and public meeting. J. Bulbick, Esq., occupied the chair, and called on the secretary to read the report, which showed how the Lord had blessed the humble efforts of His servants in this little place. The entire income and expenditure were as follows: — Donations, £40 7s. 6d.; weekly subscriptions by the workers, £18 5s. 1d.; balance from last year, £10 0s. 6d.; total, £68 13s. 1d. Expenditure, £71 6s. 6d.; debt, £2 13s. 5d. The chairman stated that the report of work done

and subscriptions by the workers showed better than he could express it the healthy state of the mission. After all the expenses incurred in the alterations there was only the small debt of £2 odd, and remembering as he did the former state of this now pretty little mission Hall, which only the other day (so to speak) was but a poor dilapidated old stable, it showed what, by the blessing of God, willing hearts and hands could perform. Mr. Parnell, the superintendent, spoke of the Teachers' Preparatory and Bible Class, which was open to all on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9 p.m. Mr. Howell, superintendent of the Band of Hope and Millwall Lifeboat Crew, said their numbers were increasing. Mr. Davis, of the City Mission, gave the closing address, and said it appeared that, although he was last, it was reserved for him to sound the keynote of this happy meeting, which was the word "sympathy." He gave a most stirring address on it, telling how a little child was the instrument, in God's hands, in leading to the conversion of an atheist, who had reached the tender chord in the man's heart by her guileless manner and tone, when he shook her by the hand, and a fervent "God bless you!" gushed forth from the man's heart. He forgot his atheism, and this ultimately led to his conversion, and he became, and is now, an active worker in the Lord's vineyard.

SERMON LANE MISSION.

The tenth annual meeting of this useful mission was recently held at the Athenæum, Highbury New Park. A wealthy and generous neighbourhood, replete with social comfort, had thus the claims of the poor and ignorant brought close to its doors. The Earl of Shaftesbury was to have presided, but the chilly condition of the weather led his lordship's medical attendant to forbid his venturing out. The chair was ably filled by Mr. W. Hughes Hughes.

The interest of the meeting was fully sustained by the addresses of the Rev. Mr. King, of the Baptist Chapel, Highbury; Mr. Curtis, Ragged School Union; and Messrs. Lamont, W. Haig Miller, Nixon, Joseph Surr, and Dr. Kinns, who so effectually pleaded the claims of the Mission that a liberal collection was made. Some of the speakers dwelt strongly on the adaptation of such missions to keep down discontent and infidelity among the lower classes, and one gentleman suggested that the work at Sermon Lane might be usefully studied by the Congregational body in the event of their carrying out their scheme for the spread of mission halls in the metropolis.

The balance-sheet, prepared by Mr. Lewis, treasurer, showed the funds of the institution to be in a healthy state, owing largely to a generous gift of £100 from Mr. Livingston Learmonth. The interesting report, too, prepared and read by Mr. Cooksey, the secretary, overflowed with details of well-planned and efficiently carried out schemes of Christian usefulness, embracing, indeed, almost every temporal and spiritual want of the lower classes, whether young or old. In these days of "Associations of the Black Hand," it was encouraging to hear of the doings of

an institution, as it may be termed, of the "White Hand," almost literally a manufactory of happiness!

HATFIELD STREET RAGGED SCHOOLS AND MISSION, GOLDEN LANE.

The annual public meeting was held on April 10, under the presidency of Samuel B. Power, Esq., J.P. A good number of workers and friends sat down previously to tea. The meeting commenced with singing and prayer.

The Rev. John Morgan exhorted those who were engaged in this grand work to retain all their faith in the old verities of the Gospel.

The Chairman, in the course of his remarks, said, when he remembered that this institution had had a career of fifty-six years, he could not help thinking what hopes, fears, joys, and sorrows there must have been in the hearts of those who had been engaged in its management during that time. He could look back himself to about thirty-three years engaged in Ragged School work, and the retrospect was not without its encouragements. Having narrated for the encouragement of his hearers the successful after life of a Ragged School scholar of his acquaintance, he urged the teachers not to be satisfied with second-rate work, as they were fellow-workers with Christ.

"Bringing in the Sheaves," was next sung, after which the report was read by Mr. G. A. Robottom. The financial statement, read by Mr. J. Beament, showed, after paying all expenses for the past year, a balance in hand of £2 18s. 4½d. After him came Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, who said that Ragged School teachers should deal mostly with experimental religion.

The Rev. T. Perry reminded those present of the possibility and reality of children's conversion, and said there were three things every worker wanted; he would put them into three P's—Pluck, Patience, and Prayer. The speaking was ably sustained by the Rev. F. J. Jones, and by Messrs. Berry, Drayton, and Beadle. An earnest appeal was made for increased subscriptions.

DEPTFORD RAGGED SCHOOL.

The annual meeting of the friends of the above school, situate in Giffin Street, High Street, was recently held at the Brockley Road schoolroom (by kind permission of the Rev. J. T. Wigner). Mr. George Hammer presided.

The Secretary, Mr. Arnold, read the report.

The Superintendents of the Sunday Schools said: "It gladdens our hearts in reviewing the work of the past year to be able to report favourably upon the marked spirituality which is manifesting itself in many of the children attending our schools. Morning, scholars, 152; teachers, 13; afternoon, scholars, 261; teachers, 26. Our library has been considerably extended and replenished. Aided by a grant from the Committee of the Ragged School Union, we have been enabled to add to it about 200 volumes."

The Sunday Evening attendance had reached 75. On July 16th the friends at the Brockley Wesleyan Chapel kindly provided a "flower service," when 300 children were present.

The Sewing Classes for girls are going on very satisfactorily.

The Mothers' Meeting has an average attendance of 32.

The Tuesday evening services for children and young people have been held without intermission, and the Penny Bank has made satisfactory progress.

The Working Lads' Institute.—During the year the total attendances amounted to nearly 2,000. Now the advantages offered by the Institute are more known there has been a steady increase in numbers, and growth of appreciation by the lads of the assistance to their daily work which is afforded by the weekly classes for writing, arithmetic, drawing, and shorthand. The patient perseverance of some of the lads, who have neglected or evaded the education provided by the Board Schools, and who now realise the utility of education, is very encouraging to those ladies and gentlemen who voluntarily conduct these classes. Besides this, the Institute provides healthy recreation for the lads in the shape of the gymnasium (conducted by Mr. W. E. Monk), draughts, chess, dominoes, illustrated and other papers. The Swimming Club met at the baths every Wednesday during the summer, most of the lads showing marked improvement. The lads also met twice a week on Blackheath for cricket.

The balance-sheet showed a balance in hand of £77 6s. 6d.

The Chairman said the school did not belong to any denomination. They were working for one Maker, with one object, the benefiting and blessing of souls.

The Rev. J. C. Wetherell moved the adoption of the report. He predicted that the School Board would never meet the wants of the extreme poor. It was not in human nature to teach dirty children when they could have clean ones. If gutter children were to be lifted up it would be done by means of voluntary efforts, and such energetic, able, persevering, and conscientious work as their friends were doing down in the Deptford Ragged School.

Mr. George Walker seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Rev. J. T. Wigner said, if the self-denial their friends practised from week to week all the year round in conducting the Ragged Schools was known, they would have an audience which would fill that chapel.

Mr. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, said he was pleased with the frank report which had been read. He considered that the Sunday Night Schools, which were a leading feature of Ragged School work, should meet with more hearty support; and in the new building which was contemplated he hoped to see some provision made for elder girls by reading rooms and evening teaching, such as was being done in East London by Miss Guinness.

This resolution was ably supported by Mr. J. W. C. Fegan, after which the Rev. H. McIntosh and H. J. Bristow, Esq., addressed the meeting.

FOX AND KNOT SCHOOLS.

The annual meeting of the above children's Gospel Mission was held on Wednesday, April 18th. Tea was provided for 150 of the parents

and friends. The chairman, George Minto, Esq., sen., in his address spoke of the necessity of parents yielding themselves to God for their children's sake. The report showed satisfactorily the blessing of God upon the work having resulted in the conversion of many of the young people.

Admiral Fishbourne, in moving the first resolution, expressed his unbelief in all forms of philanthropy which did not acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second resolution, relating to the Christian Band, was moved by Mr. G. Hoon, of the Ragged School Union, who said: In anything that is worth doing we must expect to meet with difficulties, and especially in the Lord's work. The difficulties arise often from our incompetence and insincerity, and from the perverse natures with which we have to deal.

Short addresses were also given by Messrs. Crust, Minto, and Wintersgill. Funds are much needed. At Smithfield and Plumber's Place some 300 children of the poorer classes are gathered together. H. W. Nunn, 48, Morton Road, London, N., is the Hon. Secretary.

NORTH STREET, MAIDA HILL, INDUSTRIAL AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The annual meeting in connection with the Industrial and Ragged Schools and Home for Working Boys, North Street, Maida Hill, was held on Friday evening, April 20th, in the Infant Schoolroom, Richmond Street, Edgware Road. The chair was occupied by T. A. Denny, Esq., who has taken a deep interest and rendered substantial aid in furtherance of the objects of the institution for many years. He was ably supported on the occasion by the Rev. J. Gosset Tanner, M.A., Rev. George Despard, M.A., R. J. Curtis, one of the secretaries of the Ragged School Union, J. M. Weylland, Esq., Charles L. Todd, Esq., hon. sec., Edwin Tildesley, Esq., treasurer, and several other valued friends and supporters of the work of the Home and Schools. There was a numerous company present, and the schoolroom was most tastefully decorated with an extraordinary abundance of primroses and anemones, which J. Hollis, Esq., a member of the committee, had kindly employed a number of children in the country to gather for the occasion. The flowers were distributed next morning in about 400 homes in the neighbourhood by the children attending the Infant School. The boys of the Home, as in former years, occupied the large gallery at the end of the room, being attired in their neat and clean working dress. There were also a large number of older boys, now growing into young men, who have been in situations for various periods, twelve of whom received prizes of a reference Bible and five shillings each for retaining their employment for upwards of twelve months with satisfaction to their employers. The Chairman gave a cheering and suitable word of advice to each recipient of a prize. He also read letters from several friends who were unable to be present. Major-General Lowry, C.B., wrote as follows:—"I beg through the chairman of the meeting to express my very sincere regret that I cannot be, as I promised, at the annual

gathering in support of the Industrial Home in North Street on the 20th," &c., &c. Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, spoke at length on the importance of the work under the able and earnest superintendence of Mr. Amor, and expressed a wish that the operations should be enlarged so as to include instruction and amusement for the lads and elder girls who abound in the neighbourhood by means of an Institute and Reading Rooms and Night Schools, and also gave some hints on religious teaching. Other addresses followed. The Rev. J. Tanner, M.A., referred to the suggestion of Mr. Curtis, which he would be glad to see adopted.

GEORGE YARD RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The twenty-ninth annual meeting of the above schools was recently held, the Earl of Shaftesbury presiding. The report dealt at some length with the various operations at work in connection with the Ragged Schools, the Day Schools, the Sunday Schools, the Children's Services, the Band of Hope, the Toy Classes, the Day Nursery, the Library, the Baths, the Evangelistic Services, the Adult Bible Class, the Mothers' Meetings, and the Poor Women's Sewing Classes. Altogether there had been 293,000 attendances of all classes at the services, the institution having been opened 1,974 times during the year. Seven services were held in the kitchens of the common lodging-houses every Sunday evening, and the temperance work had also been very successful. The income during the year had been £1,362, and the expenditure £1,320. It alluded to the efforts of various friends of the schools, and incidentally mentioned that during the progress of the temperance meetings 30,000 pledges had been taken, 1,000 drunkards had been reclaimed, and 500 converted.

The Rev. Mr. Lawrence moved: "That this meeting expresses its earnest conviction of the necessity of maintaining the Ragged Schools and the various missionary agencies in operation at the George Yard Ragged Schools as the centre of Christian benevolence, and also to encourage the various modes of imparting religious teaching among the classes who live in this destitute and crowded portion of the metropolis."

The Rev. Mr. Briggs seconded the resolution, which was supported by the Rev. Mr. Frith, of Gunnersbury, and Mr. R. Rennie, and was carried unanimously.

The Rev. G. Davenport moved a vote of thanks to the Earl of Shaftesbury. Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr. Green, and was carried unanimously.

Lord Shaftesbury: I quite believe what has been said by my friend, Mr. Curtis, that the most gratifying proof on your part that you have any regard for the services I have rendered to-night, or any other night, would be a more extended support not only to this, but every Ragged School in the City of London. Did you ever see, or read, or hear such a budget as that just read by Mr. George Holland? The operations of these Ragged Schools are spread over almost every hour of the day, and there is something going on every week day. On Saturday, which is generally considered a holiday with most people, there are four distinct operations going on; there

are seven on Friday; on Thursday ten; on Wednesday eight; on Tuesday twelve; on Monday there are fourteen; and now comes the Day of Rest—Sunday. A Day of Rest indeed! The operations commence at ten in the morning and don't end till 8.45 at night. And this is the work that is done by this institution, and so various are the applications of the operations—for the mind, the body, the soul, and the spirit, that it seems, in short, something so exceedingly varied, something so providential, that I cannot but think that George Holland was sent here for the purpose of acting as the apostle to the poor, the ignorant, and the destitute.

Sir R. Carden having briefly expressed his appreciation of the value of the George Yard Ragged Schools, the proceedings terminated.

HORNSEY ROAD RAGGED SCHOOL AND NURSERY.

The annual meeting of this mission was recently held in the schoolroom, Ingram Place Hall. The Rev. F. A. C. Lillingston, of St. Barnabas, was in the chair.

The Secretary read the annual report and financial statement, which gave an encouraging account of the operations during the past year.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report, &c. Referring to the Crêche, he pointed out the inestimable boon which it was in enabling the bread-winners of the family to go out to work with an easy mind, knowing that their children were being looked after with all the kindness and care which could be wished.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Wilks, who said it was an undoubted fact that good work was being done here. He then enlarged upon one great hindrance to the success of mission work—viz., the wretched and overcrowded homes, if homes they can be called, though they are more like stables. Quoting from School Board returns, he instanced the lamentable state of affairs at Golden Lane, where ninety-one families, with four in a family, live in quarters of one room only, forty-nine with five in a family, and twenty-one with six and upwards. In Field Lane sixty per cent. live in one room only, and in Tower Street, Seven Dials, eighty-five per cent. What does all this mean? Perhaps not active immorality, but certainly a fearful hindrance to the growth of intelligence, or of anything we value. Another hindrance is the absence of reading-rooms and healthy places of resort, where those who have been influenced for good may enjoy some sort of social life, and take part in helping on the work which has been a blessing to them.

The Rev. John Piper said thirteen years of his ministry had been spent in China and Japan, and he could most deliberately say that this great city had more immorality than any city in either of those countries.

Mr. Haig Miller seconded the resolution in a speech full of earnest enthusiasm and encouragement rippling over with humorous and telling anecdotes Mr. Hassell and others followed.

OGLE MEWS RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The thirty-ninth annual meeting of the friends and subscribers of these schools was held on the 26th April, at the schoolrooms, Foley Street, Great Portland Street, when the

Right Hon. the Lord Mayor presided. Amongst others there were present the Lady Mayoress, Mr. Sheriff Savory, Alderman Sir R. W. Carden, M.P., Sir Henry Peek, M.P., the Rev. Prebendary Cadman, and the Rev. W. R. Mowll. The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Rev. Prebendary Cadman. Mr. Pitts (hon. sec.) then read the report for the past year, from which it appeared that in the general survey of the year's work there was noticed an increase in most of the operations, more especially in the average attendance at the Afternoon Sunday School, Infants' Nursery, Youths' Institute, together with their kindred agencies, the Penny Savings Bank, Library, and Band of Hope. The committee therefore recommended some enlargement of the school premises, with an especial view to give the Infants' Nursery suitable accommodation. Referring to the Infants' Nursery which had been established with the object of providing a place of safety for young children, and thus liberating the mother, the committee, owing to the increased number of the infants left, had found the present limited space at their disposal quite insufficient to provide properly for their comfort, and could not in the state of things now existing receive any infants under two years old.

In the Sunday Afternoon Schools the average attendance was 135, being an increase of 27 on the previous year. In the Sunday Evening Schools the average was 279; Weekday School, 130; Library, 90. The financial statement showed that the amount from subscriptions and donations was £348 17s. 11d., whilst the expenditure was £324 17s. 5d., the balance due to the Treasurer being £24 0s. 6d.

The Lord Mayor, who was received with loud cheers, said it was with great satisfaction he heard that the annual report was the thirty-ninth, in consequence of which it could be inferred that the institution existed long before the establishment of the London School Board. It might have been expected that with the coming of the School Board such institutions would have been removed, but that was not the case. The need for Ragged Schools was as great as ever for meeting the wants of the poorest of the poor. He was of opinion that to promote education inducements should be held out to the poor parents whereby they might be assisted in the most material manner. By the establishment of the Infants' Nursery how relieved the mother must feel, when going to her hard day's work, to know that her child would be received into a warm and comfortable room, and be properly cared for. He thought that branch one of the most important of the Institution, and considered the committee were working in the right direction in seeking to extend the accommodation for the little children. The next charity to which he alluded was the Penny Dinner system. The sum might seem small and economical, but it was a necessary provision for the children. Care should be taken to give the children a good wholesome meal, and at the same time a better one than they were accustomed to get in their own homes. He noted with pleasure the increased attendance at the Sunday Afternoon Schools. He

was glad to find that the committee had impressed upon the children and their parents the necessity of temperance. He could state that nineteen out of twenty cases that came before him for adjudication were traceable to the public-houses and drunkenness. He could never cease, therefore, in urging upon those who had charge of children to do their utmost to promote temperate habits. He then concluded with a touching appeal to all present to do their utmost to persuade their friends to assist them in furthering the good work.

The Rev. Prebendary Cadman, in moving the adoption of the report and the election of a committee for the ensuing year, agreed with the Lord Mayor in congratulating the school upon its thirty-ninth anniversary, and during that long period it was a pleasant fact that the committee had never altered their opinion regarding the utility of the school. Had the schools at any time not fulfilled the objects for which they were designed, being men of practical sense and propriety, they would have ceased proceeding in the same course. He was glad that attention had been drawn to the school being started before the School Board. They did not wish to work in opposition to the School Board, but by their efforts they might extend the work of education. Many good works had grown up out of the Ragged Schools, consequently if the Ragged Schools were allowed to die out much harm would be done to many other charities.

Mr. Sheriff Savory, in seconding the resolution, could conceive no object in which a sheriff ought to take greater interest or feel deeper sympathy than in the great cause of education. Officers of law and order found it their duty to deal with large numbers of their fellow-men for the punishment of vice and crime, and he thought that institutions like the Ogle Mews Ragged Schools were powerful remedies for curing the seeds of crime and sin. Having been a Sunday School teacher himself for nearly twenty years, he naturally took great interest in that branch of the work, and thought it promoted a truly Christian spirit.

Sir Henry Peek heartily concurred with the Lord Mayor's remarks regarding the Penny Dinners. He had given more than 100,000 dinners at a cost of 100,000 pence, and no child could say it had not had enough. One of the great advantages gained by the Penny Dinner was that the afternoon attendance of the child was secured. He then moved the following resolution: "That this meeting having now heard of the continued success of the mission work conducted by the committee, unites with them in an expression of thankfulness to Almighty God for the blessings bestowed on the efforts put forth, and appeals with the committee to the public for funds wherewith to enlarge the present school premises, in order to make efficient provision for the Infants' Nursery."

The Rev. W. R. Mowll seconded the resolution, and spoke in favour of the Crêche system, which was originally started in Paris.

The resolution having been agreed to, Sir Robert Carden moved a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, and stated that by the system of Ragged Schools 300,000 children had been

rescued from the streets and converted into useful members of society.

Robert Hepburn, Esq., seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Secretary then announced contributions to the amount of £244 towards the building fund, and the meeting closed with the benediction.

NEW TOTHILL STREET SUNDAY RAGGED SCHOOL.

The teachers of this school, wishing to meet the parents of the children attending the school, and also to interest them more fully in the work they were doing among the children, arranged a special meeting for the purpose, which was held on Monday, April 30, 1883. A substantial tea was provided. After tea a meeting was held, at which Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, took the chair. A hymn having been sung and prayer offered, the Secretary gave a short statement of the work carried on. Mr. H. T. Burgess then presided and spoke, after which W. Fuller, Esq., to whom the school belongs, addressed the parents. Mr. Lloyd, with other friends, contributed to make the evening bright and joyous. This was the first meeting of the kind ever held in the school.

FIELD LANE.

We hope in out next issue to give an account of the important banquet which was held under the presidency of the Duke of Connaught, and also of the interesting public meeting at the Holborn Town Hall.

A HAPPY THOUGHT.

Some of our institutions are very fertile in expedients and suggestions bearing on the well-being of the children and on the homes of the poor.

The following handbill is a case in point :—

IMPORTANT.

If you wish to preserve your health take care that your homes are kept clean. Dirty walls and ceilings often harbour the germs of disease.

Persons in the neighbourhood wishing to give their ceilings a coat of whitewash can have the materials, and the loan of a brush and pail, FREE.

Application for the same to be made to the caretaker of the school named.